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INFORMATION CALENDAR

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No. 89

AROUND-THE-WORLD RADIO BROADCAST of the National Farm and Home Hour is scheduled for Saturday, December 23. Connie B. Gay and Ruth Van Deman, regular conductors of the show, will have as their guests, Secretary of Agriculture Claude R. Wickard and Brigadier General Frank T. Hines, Administrator of Veteran Affairs. The 15-minute portion of the program originating in Washington will feature a discussion of "The GI Bill and How It Works For Returning Veterans Who Want To Farm." OWI is rebroadcasting the entire program over all of its overseas facilities.

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QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ON POTATO SITUATION. . . Announcement was made last week through U.S.D.A. release 3736 that, to meet demands of the armed forces for potatoes, War Food Order 120 was issued authorizing the Director of Distribution to designate certain producing areas from which WFA permits will be required to ship potatoes. For the information of affected trade groups, questions and answers relating to this order have been prepared and may be obtained from regional offices of OD or from the Marketing Reports Division of the Office of Distribution in Washington.

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AGRICULTURAL LEGISLATION. . . . December 11, the Senate passed and sent to the President a bill to suspend during the emergency the tariff duty on coconuts...The House passed a bill to authorize adjustment or cancellation of certain farm loans and overpayments to farmers. December 12, the Senate agreed to a minor amendment to this bill and sent it to the President. . . Both Houses agreed to the Conference Report on the Roads Authorization Bill which includes funds for forest roads and farm-to-market roads...Both houses agreed to the Conference Report on the Flood Control Bill which includes post-war flood control projects to be carried out by this Department. December 14, the Senate passed the Crop Insurance Bill...The Senate Appropriations Committee reported the supplemental appropriation bill with amendments providing direct appropriation for AAA payments and a Farm Labor Program for the entire year, 1945.

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"CHRISTMAS AROUND THE WORLD" is the title of CONSUMER TIME's December 23 program. Children from the Embassies and Legations of the United Nations in Washington--France, England, Holland, Russia, South America--will appear on this Christmas show to send their holiday greetings from coast to coast. They will also tell about their respective Christmas customs and traditions, and describe the festive holiday foods they enjoy in their own countries.

Scheduled for CONSUMER TIME's December 30 show is a Preview of the Food Situation for 1945 featuring Keith Himebaugh, USDA's Director of Information.

QUARTERLY CHECK-UP ON PRICE CEILINGS. . . . The quarterly recalculation of dry grocery ceilings comes around in January. At that time grocers will have new lists of "community prices" to post. Meanwhile the true success of the Grocer-Consumer Anti-Inflation Campaign to keep food prices down can be accurately measured. Results will be judged, not by how many feet of newspaper space the Campaign netted, nor how many times cooperating grocers and consumers were mentioned on the air, but by determining to what extent the ceiling price lists have been posted and to what extent above ceiling sales have been reduced. An OPA Price Panel Survey is gathering such data now. If the survey indicates that stores are well posted, and that overcharges are down, storekeepers and customers will know that the place to fight inflation is in the store where the goods are sold. The G-C A-I Campaign store banners and posters ask customers to use all of the ceiling price lists when they shop. Food prices have been held in line for over a year now. If every grocer and customer does his and her share, prices can stay in line. In most communities the Campaign will continue straight on through the price survey, and up until the time when the new lists are up in the stores.

Retailers can, and will no doubt want to, secure from the nearest OPA office enough of the current price ceiling lists to display them around the store about as follows: One grocery list for every 1,500 square feet of store area; one meat list for every 20 feet of meat counter; one vegetable, egg and poultry list at points of sale; all lists should be posted so that customers can read them from 2 feet away.

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The STATE GOALS MEETINGS for 1945 production were completed in Maine yesterday. Reports on some of the earlier meetings have already been tabulated and progress is being made on others. They should all be ready for release about the first of January. Indications, based on reports received so far, are that the meetings this year were generally highly satisfactory.

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USDA RELEASES OF SPECIAL SIGNIFICANCE European food situation deteriorates--3737; Call on colored farmers to help assure chicken for fighting men--3738; Earle H. Clapp retires from Forest Service--3743; The post-war competitive-situation for cotton--3747; 1945 price support on eggs announced--3753; Wartime activities of CCC (a talk by J. B. Hutson at Chicago on December 11)--3754; Wheat farming after the war (a talk by Secretary Wickard at St. Paul on December 13)--3761; Changes in WFA organization--3764; Farm labor report--3773.

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OPA RELEASES OF INTEREST TO AGRICULTURE. . . . Price of fungicide material raised--OPA-5060; December price of spinach increased--OPA-5065; Ceiling prices of 1944 crop of burley tobacco--OPA-5068; Grade marks ordered on dressed carcasses--OPA-5069; Army tires priced for sales to civilians--OPA-5067; Price action affecting cotton ginning services in the State of California--OPA-5072; Methods for establishing ceiling prices for packaged cane syrup--OPA-T-2808; New prices effective from Aug. 15 for Michigan and Washington concord grapes for processing--OPA-T-2807; Retail pricing on poultry--OPA-T-2822; Higher ceiling price extended to more heavyweight hogs--OPA-T-2829; "Toll milling" of rough rice allowed when performed for U. S. Government--OPA-T-2824.

PREVENT INVASION BY FOREIGN CROP PESTS. . . . Plant quarantine inspectors, postal and customs personnel are swamped beyond capacity to handle and inspect all servicemen's packages now being mailed every month from foreign lands. A fact sheet to help correct this situation--HOW TO SAFEGUARD PLANT GIFTS FROM SERVICEMEN ABROAD--went out to the field on November 27, telling how anyone who receives packages from abroad can help protect our farms and homes against possible damage from injurious foreign insect pests and plant diseases. Main point is that we can each be our own inspectors at home and burn any potentially harmful packing material that we find around such gifts.

Farmers who fight boll weevil, European corn borer, and many other injurious pests which originally came from foreign lands, and gardeners fighting Japanese beetles or the now common plant diseases originally not in this country will be interested. Garden club members and others will want to know the simple procedure by which plants, bulbs, roots and seeds can be sent more safely by servicemen to people in this country. For this procedure anyone can write to the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine, -U. S. Department of Agriculture, 209 River Street, Hoboken, N.J. Keeping foreign pests out of our country is a job that requires alertness all year round.

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The motion picture "TEN YEARS OF CO-OP CREDIT" has been completed. Prints will soon be available from Farm Credit District Offices...Another movie, that has to do with victory gardens entitled "GROW YOUR OWN", is nearing completion. Photographic work is finished and sound is now being recorded. Prints should be available about the first of February from the State film depositories.

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